

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 6, 7, 14, and 16 have been amended. Claims 5 and 15 have been canceled. The presently pending claims are claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-20.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 14 because of informalities. In response, claim 14 has been amended to correct the informalities. Therefore, the withdrawal of the objection and the allowance of claim 14 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, The Examiner stated that corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required. In response, the Applicant is submitting formalized drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d).

In paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated that claim 14 recites the limitation of "the combustible material" which lacks antecedent basis. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 14 to overcome the rejection. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 14-19 is respectfully requested.

In paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 4,551,971). In the Office Action,

the Examiner stated that claims 5 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 5. Additionally, the Applicant has amended claim 14 to incorporate the limitations of claim 15. Claim 2 depends from amended independent claim 1 and recites additional limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 1, 2, and 14 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Roche (U.S. Patent No. 5,297,391). In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 5 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 5. Additionally, the Applicant has amended claim 14 to incorporate the limitations of claim 15. Claim 2 depends from amended independent claim 1 and recites additional limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 1, 2, and 14 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 8, the Examiner allowed claim 20. The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claim 20.

In paragraph 9, the Examiner stated that claims 3-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten independent form including all of the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 5 into claim 1. Claim 5 has been canceled. Claims 2-4 and 6-13 depend from amended independent claim 1 and recites additional limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Therefore, the allowance of claims 1-4 and 6-13 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 10, the Examiner stated that claims 15-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under U.S.C. 112 and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 14 to incorporate the limitations of claim 15 into claim 14. Claim 15 has been canceled. Claims 16-19 depend from amended independent claim 14 and recites additional limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 14. Therefore, the allowance of claims 14, 16-19 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-20.

Respectfully submitted,



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